

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /065 W  
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R 260930Z AUG 77  
FM USLO PEKING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8556  
SECDEL TOKYO  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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DEPT PASS USIA FOR IPS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), CH, US

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION TO THE SECRETARY'S PRC VISIT; TS'AN-K'AO  
HSIAO-HSI

1. SUMMARY. IN ITS AUGUST 20 AND AUGUST 23 ISSUES THE  
RESTRICTED REFERENCE NEWS INFORMED PRC CITIZENS OF  
AUGUST 18 COMMENTS BY STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ON THE  
SECRETARY'S THEN IMMINENT PRC VISIT, PROVIDED DETAILED  
COVERAGE OF THE US POSITION, AND NOTED SECRETARY VANCE'S  
AUGUST 21 STOPOVER IN TOKYO. END SUMMARY

2. PRC'S RESTRICTED FOREIGN PRESS DIGEST REFERENCE  
NEWS (TS'AN-K'AO HSIAO-HSI, CIRCULATION 9,000,000) ON  
AUGUST 20 CARRIED EXCERPTS FROM AN AUGUST 18 REPORT  
OUTLINING THE COMMENTS OF UNNAMED STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS  
ON SECRETARY VANCE'S THEN IMMINENT VISIT TO THE PRC.

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THE ARTICLE, ENTITLED "MODEST GOALS SET FOR VANCE  
CHINA TRIP," NOTED THE OFFICIALS' COMMENTS THAT THE  
CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS VERY LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF  
THE NEW LEADERSHIP. THEREFORE, THEY COULD NOT PREDICT  
THAT A FRAMEWORK WOULD BE PRODUCED FOR IMPLEMENTING  
NORMALIZATION. THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP WOULD BE TO  
ASCERTAIN PRC ATTITUDES AND DISCUSS WORLD ISSUES.

3. THE ARTICLE NOTED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICIALS MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS ON SINO-US  
NORMALIZATION:

-- THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION ADHERES TO THE SHANGHAI  
COMMUNIQUE BUT HAS NO SENSE OF URGENCY NOR TIMETABLE;

-- THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION REMAINS VERY CONCERNED  
ABOUT THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE TAIWAN PROBLEM;  
-- CONTRARY TO PRESS SPECULATION THERE IS NO ONE IN  
THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WHO IS PREPARED TO GIVE  
UP SEEKING PEKING'S ASSURANCE THAT IT WOULD NOT USE  
FORCE TO SOLVE THE TAIWAN PROBLEM;

-- ON THE BASIS OF TALKS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND  
US PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HOPED  
THAT NO STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN TOWARD TAIWAN -- WITH  
WHICH WASHINGTON HAS MAINTAINED FORMAL DIPLOMATIC  
RELATIONS;

-- BECAUSE OF THIS, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD  
LIKE TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS BUT NOT ABANDON TAIWAN.

4. THE OFFICIALS ALSO STATED THAT EVEN IF NORMALI-  
ZATION ISSUES DID NOT COME UP, THEY FELT THE TRIP WOULD  
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BE WORTHWHILE. NEVERTHELESS, VANCE WILL PROBABLY  
DISCUSS BILATERAL ISSUES AS WELL AS WORLD ISSUES.  
WORLD ISSUES WILL INCLUDE KOREA, SOUTHEAST ASIA  
(AND VIETNAM), AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, US-SOVIET  
RELATIONS, THE INDIAN OCEAN, ARMS LIMITATION,  
NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS. THE BILATERAL  
ISSUES WILL INCLUDE NORMALIZATION, TRADE, CULTURAL  
EXCHANGES AND FINANCIAL CLAIMS. THE OFFICIALS CONTINUED, THE  
CHINESE ARE GREATLY CONCERNED OVER THE SPREAD OF  
SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA. THE OFFICIALS HOPED THAT  
THE CHINESE WOULD UNDERSTAND THE US POSITION ON SOUTH  
AFRICA AND HUMAN RIGHTS. THE ARTICLE ENDS WITH  
VANCE'S JUNE 29 STATEMENT ON THE CHINA QUESTION  
(A DIRECT QUOTE). THE REFERENCE NEWS PIECE  
IS AN ALMOST COMPLETE TRANSLATION OF AN AUGUST 18 IPS ARTICLE  
LEAVING OUT ONLY THE  
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP AS BEING  
"MORE CLEAN" THAN IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST TWO YEARS  
AND A STATEMENT THAT THE CHINESE WANT A MORE ACTIVE  
US ROLE IN AFRICA.

5. THE AUGUST 23 ISSUE CARRIES A NUMBER OF ARTICLES

RELATING THE SECRETARY'S TRIP INCLUDING EXCERPTS  
FROM AN AUGUST 20 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE BY MURRY  
MARDER, AP AND UPI ACCOUNTS OF SECRETARY VANCE'S  
AUGUST 21 STOPOVER IN TOKYO, AN AUGUST 21 LONDONOBSERVER ARTICLE ("  
IF VANCE'S VISIT TO CHINA FAILS,  
THEN AMERICAN POLICY WILL FACE DANGERS"), AN  
AUGUST 19 EDITORIAL FROM TAIPEI'S CENTRAL DAILY NEWS  
("JUST AND SINCERE ACTION") AND A SHORT CENTRAL  
NEWS (TAIWAN) ITEM NOTING A STATEMENT BY AN ROC  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN UNDERSCORING  
ROC OPPOSITION TO US CONTACTS WITH CHINESE  
COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES.

6. REFERENCE NEWS' COVERAGE OF THE WASHINGTON POST  
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ARTICLE ALSO CITED AN UNNAMED STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL  
AS STATING THAT IF THE TALKS PRODUCE A NEW BASIS FOR  
EXPANDNING RELATIONS, THEN AN IMPORTANT OBSTACLE  
BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND PEKING WILL BE REMOVED. THE  
ARTICLE NOTED THAT THE US HOLDS THE VIEW THAT IT  
CANNOT "ABANDON TAIWAN," AND CAN ARRANGE A COMPROMISE  
IN WHICH PEKING WOULD RENOUNCE THE USE OF FORCE OR  
PRESSURE TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF TAIWAN'S SECURITY AND  
ECONOMY. THE ARTICLE ALSO NOTED THAT THIS IS SOME-  
THING NEITHER NIXON NOR FORD COULD ACHIEVE, AND  
STATED THAT US OFFICIALS ARE AVOIDING OPTIMISTIC  
PREDICTIONS.

7. EXCERPTS FROM THE AUGUST 21 LONDON OBSERVER  
ARTICLE NOTED THAT VANCE'S DISCUSSIONS IN PEKING AND  
COULD CHANGE THE TRIPOLAR BALANCE OF POWER, EVEN TO  
THE EXTENT OF HAVING DEEP AND FAR-REACHING INFLUENCE  
ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY AND THE MIDDLE EAST  
PROBLEM. THE ARTICLE STATED THAT DOAK BARNETT AND  
STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS FEEL THAT MOVEMENT TOWARD  
NORMALIZATION WOULD GIVE AMERICAN AND WORLD PUBLIC  
OPINION THE IMPRESSION THAT TAIWAN IS BEING "SOLD  
OUT". THEREFORE, THIS COULD LEAD TO ANOTHER DEBATE  
IN THE UNITED STATES OVER "WHO LOST CHINA".

8. COPIES OF THE TWO ISSUES BEING POUCHED TO HONGKONG  
AND DEPARTMENT.  
WOODCOCK

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